

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00226 071716Z

42

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5958

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0226

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN UR US

SUBJECT: NAS-USSR ACADEMY AGREEMENT

FOR EUR AND OES

1. I AM DISTURBED TO LEARN FROM SCIENCE COUNSELOR THAT NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE IS CONSIDERING NOTIFYING SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES THAT IT WILL BE UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT COMMITMENT IN 1974/75 AGREEMENT BETWEEN ACADEMIES TO INCREASE BY 50 PERCENT THE NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS TO BE EXCHANGED (PARA 3 OF AGREEMENT). WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE REASON FOR RECONSIDERING THIS COMMITMENT IS BUDGETARY.

2. I RECOGNIZE THAT NAS-SOVIET ACADEMY AGREEMENT DOES NOT HAVE STATUS OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, AND ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IN THIS PERIOD OF BUDGET CUTTING, ALL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS MUST CAREFULLY REVIEW PRIORITIES. NEVERTHELESS, I FEEL THAT OUR BILATERAL US-SOVIET PROGRAMS ARE OF GREAT POLITICAL AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE. TO RENEGE ON COMMITMENT PREVIOUSLY MADE COULD POSSIBLY BE READ MISTAKENLY BY SOVIETS AS POLITICAL SIGNAL AND IN ANY EVENT WOULD SET BAD PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER US-SOVIET SCIENTIFIC AND
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00226 071716Z

TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS.

3. I RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH NAS
ON THIS MATTER AND VIGOROUSLY ENCOURAGE NAS TO FIND
WAY TO IMPLEMENT ITS 1974/75 AGREEMENT IN FULL.
STOESSEL

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